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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITIONS INVESTIGATE
SOIL STRUCTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

Field parties of the Academy of Sciences USSR have left Moscow for the Caspian plains. They are headed by V. N. Sukachev, member of the Academy of Sciences USSR, who will direct the efforts of more than 300 scientists of various institutes of the academy.(1)

One of the largest expeditions of the Scientific Research Institute of Geography of the Moscow State University investigated the natural phenomena and soil structure in the region immediately to the north of the Caspian Sea. Data were collected to facilitate the planning of irrigation systems in this region. Another expedition was sent to eastern Siberia to study the natural wealth of Irkutsk Oblast and the possibilities of its exploitation.

The results of field work in the mountainous Pamir region were discussed at a meeting of the Moscow branch of the All-Union Geographic Society held on 5 March 1951. The members of the expedition who worked there for 3 years under the guidance of I. S. Shchukin, Doctor of Geographic Sciences, participated in the discussion. The members had worked under difficult conditions, had walked hundreds of kilometers along mountain paths, and had climbed the highest passes. New areas suitable for agriculture and mountain pastures were indicated in the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast. The data on pasture facilities and vegetative cover have been made available to the Ministry of Agriculture Tadzhik SSR and will be used in developing the use of land in this region.(2)

The Academy of Sciences Kazakh SSR is making preparations to send scientific expeditions into the steppes and mountainous regions of the Kazakh SSR. In 1951, a large joint expedition will set out for the Caspian lowlands and will study the soil and climate of the West Kazakhstan steppe in connection with the projected Main Stalingrad Canal. More than 200 geographers, soil scientists, botanists, zoologists, climatologists, forestry specialists, and other scientific workers will study soil, vegetation, and animal life and will compile soil, hydrological, and geobotanical maps. Associates of the Desert Institute are

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carrying out work connected with stabilizing sands, planting shelter belts, and developing forest areas. During 1951, permanent scientific research bases and laboratories will be set up in various regions of western Kazakhstan.(3)

The second expedition of "Agrolesoproyekt" is leaving Moscow within a few days for Zapadno-Kazakhstan and Gur'yev oblasti and will survey an area of over half a million hectares. The findings of this expedition, which will consist of forestry and soil specialists, hydrotechnicians, geodesists, hydrogeologists, geobotanists, and zoologists, will be in the field for 6 months.(4)

The headquarters of the expedition formed by the All-Union Plant Protecting Institute (VIZR), headed by I. Ya. Polyakov, Doctor of Agricultural Sciences, has been established in the village of Kyz-Ketken which is situated on the right bank of the Amu-Dar'ya River, opposite Takhia-Tash. The expedition arrived in Kyz-Ketken after a trip of 2,200 kilometers from Tashkent, via the barren steppe; the Dzhezak, Kitab, and Mirzachul' fields; the Guzar and Karakul pasture lands; the valley of Zeravshan and the Kara-Kum desert. The scientists are to find the most effective methods for protecting plants against insects and rodents. The plants will be grown on lands reclaimed by irrigation.(5)

The Academy of Sciences Uzbek SSR will send out 75 scientific expeditions this year which include over 700 workers. A joint expedition will be sent to the Amu-Dar'ya region to carry out soil, hydrological, and other investigations connected with the planning and construction of the Main Turkmen Canal. Workers from the Soil Science, Geological, Agricultural, and Botanical institutes will take part in the expedition.

Expeditions will be sent out to deal with problems connected with the development of the productive forces of Fergana Valley.

Six expeditions from the Agricultural Institute will concern themselves with questions related to the increase in cotton yields and animal husbandry productivity in the Uzbek SSR.(6)

An expedition of the Kirgiz Branch of the Academy of Sciences USSR, headed by I. V. Vykhotsev, Candidate of Biological Sciences, left for the central Tyan'-Shan' and the Chuyskiy zonal experimental station for fibrous plants. The expedition will continue their work of introducing grass sowing in the kolkhozes in the Karakudzhur Valley of Tyan'-Shan' Oblast. Another expedition headed by A. G. Pospelov, Candidate of Biological Science, will investigate possibilities for increasing the yield of fibrous plants grown in the Chuyskiy Valley.

The Institute of Biology is sending more expeditions than any other organization as this institute is working closely with sovkhoses and kolkhozes. One of their expeditions, headed by P. V. Grekenyuk, Candidate of Biological Sciences is at present in Issyk-Kul' Oblast introducing new methods of increasing the wool-bearing capacity of sheep.

The irrigation section of the institute is carrying out survey work in southern Kirgiz SSR and in Frunze Oblast, preliminary to the reconstruction of the irrigation system there. Soil specialists are out to prepare maps and to develop measures to prevent soil erosion. It is also planned to send an archeological expedition to the Chatkal'skaya Valley.(7)

On the occasion of opening the Academy of Sciences Turkmen SSR, S. Kalizhnyuk chief of the Main Turkmen Canal construction, mentioned in his newspaper article that obviously a much greater amount of water than originally estimated would be used from the Main Turkmen Canal, and not for irrigations purposes alone. So far, the natural resources of northern Turkmen SSR and Kara-Kalpak SSR have been surveyed very little, but the possibility is not excluded (much material on hand proves it) that many useful minerals will be found. The exploitation of these minerals will require an additional amount of electric power. This should be taken into consideration when final decisions are made on the power output and location of the planned hydroelectric power plants.(8)

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The West Siberian Branch of the Academy of Sciences USSR is sending 15 expeditions of agricultural and forestation experts into western Siberia. One of the expeditions will go to the vicinity of Ob' Bay and investigate a possibility of opening up new fisheries in the northern part of the bay.(9)

An expedition consisting of a group of scientists of the Botany Department of the University imeni A. A. Zhdanov, left Leningrad for Kara-Kum to decide on the type of trees which will be most suitable for forestation of the desert. Another expedition headed by Professor E. F. Gur'yanova, is to leave soon for the Stalingrad-Astrakhan' regions to investigate and give scientific recommendations for maintenance and improvement of fisheries in the lower Volga regions. (10)

The expedition of the Institute of Geology and Geography, Academy of Sciences Lithuanian SSR, under the direction of Professor K. Belyukas, active member of the Academy of Sciences, Lithuanian SSR, has recently returned to Vil'nyus. The expedition surveyed 90 lakes in Trakayskiy, Varenskiy, Shal'chinskiy, and Daugay-skiy rayons. Members of the expedition are now busy making detailed maps of the lakes.

Another expedition, consisting of students and teachers of this institute, will leave in June to survey lakes and peat deposits of the republic.(11)

On 29 May 1951, an archeological expedition left Leningrad for the regions near Lake Baykal to study remnants of the ancient cultures found there and to continue excavations of the stone age sites previously explored. The expedition will also visit Tunkinskiy Kray in Buryat Mongol ASSR to investigate graves which presumably belong to the 12th, 13th, and 14th centuries. The expedition is sponsored by the Leningrad Division, Institute of History of Materialistic Culture, Academy of Sciences USSR.

Other archeological expeditions will be working in the Tadzhik, Karelo-Finnish, and Estonian SSR.(12)

SOURCES

1. Kiev, Pravda Ukrainy, 27 Apr 51
2. Moscow, Vechernyaya Moskva, 5 Mar 51
3. Moscow, Pravda, 6 Mar 51
4. Alma-Ata, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, 21 Apr 51
5. Tashkent, Pravda Vostoka, 7 Jun 51
6. Moscow, Pravda, 6 Mar 51
7. Frunze, Sovetskaya Kirgiziya, 13 May 51
8. Ashkhabad, Turkmenskaya Iskra, 9 Jun 51
9. Pravda, Izvestiya, 31 May 51
10. Tashkent, Pravda Vostoka, 29 Apr 51
11. Vil'nyus, Sovetskaya Litva, 24 Apr 51
12. Kishinev, Sovetskaya Moldaviya, 30 May 51

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